

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 4608

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR CY TU

SUBJ: CYPRUS - TURKISH IMMIGRATION

1. MAINLAND TURKISH INFLUENCE WITHIN THE TURK CYPRIOT COMMUNITY HAS INCREASED STEADILY SINCE THE AUGUST CEASEFIRE. LOCAL BUREAUCRATIC INCOMPETENCE, INADEQUATE POPULATION FOR EXPANDED TERRITORY, AND A GENERAL UNWILLINGNESS TO WORK, HAVE FORCED TURKISH OFFICIALS TO IMPORT SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF MAINLAND IMMIGRANTS. BRITISH HAVE COUNTED MINIMUM OF 1,800 WORKERS ARRIVING DURING PAST FEW MONTHS. ACTUAL TOTAL COULD BE MUCH HIGHER.

2. THIRTEEN FORMERLY GREEK HOTELS IN KYRENIA AND FAMAGUSTA REOPENED DURING CURRENT BAYRAM HOLIDAY. MOST WORKERS ARE MAINLAND TURKS. LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE STATED THAT 2,000 MAINLAND HOTEL AND CATERING SPECIALISTS WILL BE NEEDED UNTIL LOCAL STAFF TRAINED. MAJORITY OF STAFF ENCOUNTERED DURING EMBOFF FIELD TRIPS HAVE BEEN MAINLANDERS.

3. TURKISH TROOPS COMPLETING TOURS HERE HAVE BEEN OFFERED
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OPTION OF REMAINING ON ISLAND. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FEWER THAN

100, MOSTLY THIRD LIEUTENANTS WITH TECHNICAL BACKGROUNDS, HAVE ACCEPTED. INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED HAVE FIRM JOB OFFER BEFORE LOCAL DISCHARGE APPROVED.

4. MAINLAND SPECIALISTS, AS WELL AS COMMON LABORERS, HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN MORPHOU CITRUS AREA. NUMBER UNCERTAIN. IMPORTATION REPORTEDLY RESULT TURK CYPRIOT MIGRANTS UNWILLINGNESS PICK AND PACK THIS YEAR'S CROP. ALSO, MAJORITY TURK CYPRIOTS RELOCATED IN MORPHOU HAVE NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH CITRUS CULTIVATION.

5. EMBOFFS HAVE ENCOUNTERED NUMBER TURKISH WORKERS IN KARPASS, AS WELL AS IN MORE CENTRAL LOCATIONS. THOSE IN KARPASS WERE FROM MERSIN AND ADANA; GAVE IMPRESSION OF BEING LOW LEVEL CIVIL SERVANTS BUT REFUSED PROVIDE ANY INFORMATION ON JOBS BEING PERFORMED.

6. ALL GREEK CYPRIOTS INDUSTRY WHICH WILL BE REACTIVATED WILL BE RUN AS "JOINT VENTURES" OF MAINLAND AND LOCAL FIRMS (OR AS STATE ENTERPRISES). TURK CYPRIOTS LACK THE EXPERTISE TO EXPLOIT THESE FACILITIES; MANAGEMENT AND TRAINED STAFF WILL HAVE TO COME FROM MAINLAND. MORE INDUSTRY REACTIVATED, GREATER INFLUENCE MAINLAND TURKS WILL HAVE IN LOCAL ECONOMY.

7. THUS FAR, MAINLANDERS DO NOT REPEAT NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BROUGHT FAMILIES TO ISLAND AND IT POSSIBLE THEIR APPEARANCE IS TEMPORARY MEASURE DESIGNED FILL GAP UNTIL LOCALS TRAINED. CLEAR HOWEVER THAT CONTROL OF ECONOMY, IN ADDITION TO ALMOST EVERYTHING ELSE IN NORTHERN CYPRUS, IS SLIPPING INTO HANDS OF MAINLAND TURKS. LOCALS ARE UPSET ABOUT THIS, AS THEY ARE ABOUT MAINLANDERS FILLING LUCRATIVE POSITIONS WHILE MOST TURK CYPRIOTS

ARE ATTEMPTING GET BY ON PARSIMONIOUS DOLE.
BROWN

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